Lbf 1048

The Copy of A LETTER

Sent (by me THOMAS CRAFORD)
TO THE
Lord Ambaſſadour of Amſterdam,
Now reſident in ENGLAND.

In this Letter I repeat unto him, 1. How unjuſtly, wickedly & tyrannically the Magiſtrates of *Amſterdam* did deal by me, (as it appears from *Pag.* 1. to the end of the 6.) All being for my voluntary acting, in writing, printing, and ſpeaking againſt firſt the *Biſhops* and their Hierarchy, and the Tyranny of the *King*; and now ſince in maintaining this our preſent *Governments* Cauſe.

Secondly I require reſtitution and ſatisfaction for my goods they took from me by violence, and my Eſtate, wherein they denied to do me any right for recovery of it; as alſo great Eſtates of other mens, for whom I acted. (*Pag.*7.)

And laſtly, I declare (from *Pag.*8. to the end) how ungrateful the *Hollanders* have been unto us, devouring us like a Moth in former times; but now ſince our warres and troubles, they have plaid their parts like Lions.

LONDON,
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Right Honourable,

SIR, I have oft been at your house to speak with you, but could not; and the last time, your men told me that I might tell them my busines which I had to you, and they would tell it you. (And seeing that you the Magistrates of *Amsterdam* have made so bold without cause to break open my house, and to take away all my goods, and to deny me of all right of Law against any man that owed me monies, or that wronged me or did violence unto my person, or took away my goods by violence; and when after nine years suffering I making but a little complaint, you took me and threw me into prison, threatning to put me to death; and after five weeks imprisonment at that time, you forbad me the Town for foure years, without ever proving any thing against me: So that I suffer the want of my Estate lying out in *Amsterdam*, with that which you took from me, above 26000 Guilders; and of other mens in Actions which I had in Commission, above 200000 Guilders, which belong to Merchants here in *England*, who also suffer:) I make bold to trouble you with these following Lines.

THe heat of your persecuting of me, you began in the year 1639. when you from time to time took away my Books from the Presse every where where I had put them to Printing, and do keep them to this day; as namely, *The wounding of the Beast*, *the Power of Princes*, *the Un-bishoping of Timothy and Titus*, *the Discovery of the Mystery of Iniquity*, and *the Looking-glasse for Prelates*, with many other small Tractates, (they all being against the Hierarchy of the Bishops, and Tyranny of the King) all which cost me a great charge to reprint again: And you oft-times apprehended me and put me in prison, but never could prove them to belong unto me to this day; though now I confesse them to be of my proper charge and putting to the Presse, for a light to our English Nation, who wandered in darknesse and blindnesse and ignorance and superstition; and the others which would not *worship the Beast*, were in prison or in banishment in forreign Countries, or else in secret remote places within the Land, every day in jeopardy of perpetual imprisonment, and whipping, slitting of Noses, cutting off their Eares; till now God of his mercy hath raised us Deliverers within these few later years.

It seemed your wrath being so hot against me, as to weary me of the Town, by making me a prey to every one to take away my goods and do me what wrong they pleased, and I should have no benefit of the Law against them; as presently in the same year 1639 did appear, when your own Tenant *Thomas Stafford* took from me 7000 Guilders worth of English Bibles *in folio*, and I call'd him before your Bench of Justice, but could have none neither definitive nor provincial sentence, yet I would not give over, but did hope.

So in the year 1642. a plot was to apprehend me, and I was put up into the top of a Steeple, (*Bennigcock* being President, and chief cause of putting me there, he being one that makes Judgment subordinate to faction when he pleases) and after the end of 17 dayes, the cry and noise of the City crying out upon shame that I should lose my goods and be so vilely used too, they were ashamed to keep me in the top of the steeple any longer, but sent for me out and set me free, pretending that they were mis-informed by *Thomas Stafford*, but yet for all that would do me no right upon my Cause depending in their Court for my 7000 Guilders worth of Bibles, unto this day; and no man which owed me any mony, would pay in a penny, because they knew that your Bench would do me no Sentence: but if any man could invent any thing against me, he was a welcome man unto them. Which most remarkably was manifested about the year 1645. when a great Malignant here in *London*, one *Edward Carleton*, against whom *I* had a Suit depending in law in your Court, He and *I* having some hot words, *Carleton* call'd me Knave; to which *I* answered, that he was a Knave which would have been an Officer to betray the City of *London* into the hands of Cavaliers, and to that end was listed at *Oxford* by the King in the Act or List of *Array*; yet in all this *I* did not say that he was one, although *I* knew it well that he was one of the chief Officers in the bloody Plot which God brought out in time; for *John Goble* the brother of *Richard Goble* who was servant to *Thomas* and the said *Edward Carleton*, had told me all the passages of it but few dayes before, and that the said *Carleton* went under Bail at that very time; yet *I* having not my witnesse by was cautious in saying that he was the man. But this *Carleton* thinking to have me out of the way when the foresaid depending Cause came to be tried, which trial was to be within four or five dayes, he with the assistance of many other Malignants (hoping to get a Nonsuit) made means to Sir *William Boswel* the Kings Agent, and to Sir *Dudley Carleton*, and to Mr. *John Vvebster*, to go unto the Lords and inform them that *I* had highly injured this *Carleton*, and that I should be fined in a great summe to pay to him for scandalizing him, and that I should lie in prison until I had paid it him. Your Bench being glad of any occasion against me right or wrong, sent their Undersheriffe and fetch'd me off the Exchange at full Change-time, and there I was put in prison: then after certain dayes I was brought before the full Bench, where they all fell a railing on me at once, and that I had injured and was such an enemy to the King and his friends, that I ought not to be suffered to live, much lesse to remain in their Town. I demanded what lawful proof *Carleton* could produce against me? but he could not produce any, nor the Bench which so reproached me without proof: yet contrary to all right they would proceed to forbid me the Town; but one of your chiefest Common-councel men (Advocate *Herculus*

Rock)

Rock hearing of it what was determined the next day to be pronounced, he ſtood up, and told them that if they did ſo proceed againſt me, it might happen that it might be revenged again, if the Parliament ſhould come to be maſter in *England*; whereupon at that time they would releaſe me, making me to promiſe them that I would not reveale, nor be an inſtrument to trouble the ſaid *Carleton* when he came again into *England*; which I was enforced to doe, or elſe they ſaid they would baniſh me: ſo with 36 Guilders for charges, I was let free for that time again.

Now about nine moneths after, the times ſeemed to you to be wholly on the Kings ſide, the *Scots* at *Newcaſtle*, the Common-councel of *London*, *Maſſie*, *Poins*, and *Waller*, and a very great part of the Parliament were turned all for the King, and in all haſte to ſet him upon the Royal Throne, there *to wipe his mouth*, like the Whore in the *Proverbs*, as if he had done nothing. Againſt which Maſter *Challenor* made an Oration in the Parliament Houſe, ſhewing his Fellow-members what a dangerous thing it was to begin to treat with the *Scots*, concerning what ſhould be done with the ſaid King, in the diſpoſing or ordering of him; to which Oration there was one that writ a Sophiſtical Anſwer on the Kings behalf, and titles it *An Anſwer without doores*, and ſets no name to it; to which Anſwer, another comes and writes a Reply unto him, and Titles his Book, *An Anſwer to the Anſwer without doores*; wherein he plainly ſhews how they ought to diſpoſe of the King, as Samuel *did with* Agag, 1 Sam. 15.33. *and* Joſhua *did with* 31 *Kings*, *whom he hanged up in one day*, *Joſh.*12.24 with many ſufficient Arguments from the Word of God and Laws of men; [*That the ſword which had made ſo many widdows and Fatherleſſe ſhould make his wife a widdow, and his Children Fatherleſſe forever.*] and that this bloody Tyrant ought not to live: This Book being Printed in *England*, one of them was ſent over to Mr. *John Traſie* a Merchant in *Amſterdam*, who did lend it me to read, and I lent it unto one *william Watſon* an *Engliſh-man*, and an Elder of the *Engliſh-Church* in *Amſterdam*, and he and his Church newly turned from the Parliament by the deluſion of this ſubtile matchivilian *Watſon*, who had brought in Maſter *Maiden* and Maſter *Price* two great Malignant Preachers, and of the *Arminian* faction, to be Miniſters of the ſaid *Engliſh-Church*: So this ſaid *William Watſon* with the reſt of the chiefeſt of the *Engliſh Church* and other malignants, went unto the Lords of the Bench, and carried the aforeſaid Book, and informed them that I had both Written and Printed it, and that it tended to the taking away of the Kings Life; This *Watſon* and the reſt of the *Engliſh-church*, turn-coats, thought by this manifeſtation of their affection to the King they ſhould make a ſufficient atonement by ſacrificing of me for all their tranſgreſſion for the former time, that they had declared themſelves affected to the *Parliament*; the Bench being alſo as it ſeemed very glad to ſhew and manifeſt their love to the King by ſacrificing of me, did preſently go with *Beningcock*, *Pater*, and the two Schouts, and breake open my doores, and for three parts of three dayes together did nothing but ſearch and tumble over and over all my Books in both my Ware-houſes (conſiſting of above nine thouſand) diſordering and ſhaking them, being in heaps, looſe ſheets unbound and ungathered: And when they had thus diligently ſearched, and

yet could finde none but Bibles, and other godly divine books; then like as *Herod destroyed all under two years old*, to be sure, so would they; they took all my goods and carried them away and laid them in the Common-Hall in the Town-house, where the Courts are held, for a speculation or shew, and to affright others from taking the Parliaments part: and whosoever would might visit my writing-Books and Reckonings, with the Accounts of mine and other mens, and take away what they pleased, as they did; and many cut their reckoning out of my Debt book, and this continued for two years. And I for my part got notice when first they broke open my two Ware-houses, and that it was for this Book, which I was innocent of, and that if I had been within, they would have apprehended me as they alwayes before had used to doe; but I presently went unto the *Hague*, for the Assistance of our Agent Mr. *Strickland*, which I thought had been there, but when I came, he was gone to *England*; so I secretly repaired unto the aforesaid Advocate *Rock*, who had been alwaies my very loving friend, and one of the chief wise men of the City, and of your Common-councel men for the City, and that sate with you in the Councel: He told me that if I did go unto you before the Bench to demand my goods and reason why they took them from me, that then they were resolved to lye upon the catch to take some advantage upon my words, and so to banish me out the Town; for that they could never finde our matter sufficient in so many years whereby they might have just cause to doe it: and therefore he told me if I did think that the Parliament of *England* would get the better of the King, then it were best that I did rest, and let them doe what they would with my goods (which I did) which vexed them not a little: then they set up my name, after they had kept my goods about two years, that all those whosoever had or would pretend any thing against me should come to them; but they first made sale of all my Nine Thousand Books for waste Paper, for they wanted the Room, because they went to pull down part of their Old Town-house, and beginning to build a New: I lying still and let them doe what they would, *and I opened not my mouth.*

Now about half a year after was news that the King was beheaded, in whom your hopes were that he should prevaile; I then went unto the said *Beningcock*, being then a President, and I demanded a reason of him for taking away my goods, and he fell a railing upon me, and told me that I ought not onely to lose my goods, but also my life; for I had alwayes been printing and speaking so many years together, and that for all that ever they had done or could doe, I remained the same still, and that I nor no such as I were ought to be suffered to live, but to be put to the same death or worse as the King was, and that there were none but Rogues and Rakehels that did approve of his death; so away I went, seeing him in his ignorant zeale so hot, and I resolved to come for *England* to complain unto the Parliament, and to get them to appoint their Agent Mr; *Strickland* to examine the businesse.

But within five or six dayes after, I being delivering a parcel of goods, to the value of fifteen pounds worth, comes the under-Schout *Bule*, and took me away from my goods, and delivered it unto his Cousin, who sent it away; so I never

never had penny for it; ſo the day after I met him again, and demanded of him why he took away my goods, and he called to his Theiſe-leaders and bad them carry me to priſon, for the Lords of the Bench had matter againſt me. So after I had lain there five dayes, and no body ſuffered to come at me, I was brought out before the Bench, and there they fell a railing on me, reckoning up all the Books that I had printed againſt the King, as they ſaid, but eſpecially a book intituled *The Anſwer to the Anſwer without doors*, and that I muſt confeſſe, and that I had given the Underſcout and his Thiefleaders bad words; all which I denied: then they muſt prove it, but no proof they had; and then they threatned to rack me, to draw one joint from another, ſo long as till I had confeſſed my ſelf to be guilty of theſe two lies: then they ſent me back again, and did not rack me that day, but would do it next ſitting, they ſaid. So, ſeven or eight dayes after they ſent for me out of my dungeon in the priſon to come before them, and they fell a railing upon me as before, threatning to pain-back me upon the Rack to make me confeſſe the ſaid Book to be my work: to which I anſwered, that it was contrary to their own Lawes to put any man upon the Rack, but the thing whereof he is accuſed muſt be firſt clearly proved by two ſufficient lawful witneſſes: then the Preſident *Bening Cock* told me they needed no witneſſes, for they knew well that I had long propheſied the deſtruction of the King, like as the Book mentioned, and therefore very likely to be my work: to which I begun to ſpeak in anſwer, but they commanded the Thief-leaders to take me away preſently, who did it with great violence, and ſhut me up again in my old dungeon in the priſon.

Now they were in a great toſſe and rage, and then it ſeemed ſought for falſe witneſſes: and there being a moſt notorious impudent Knave, one *Satten George*, who in Court had inſtituted a ſuit in law againſt an innocent friendleſſe young maid in *Amſterdam*, daughter of *Samuel Butler* of *Yarmouth* in *England*, who deceaſed at *Amſterdam*, and left the ſmall eſtate he had to this his daughter; and this *Satten-Gorge* having had ſome dealing with the ſaid *Butler* in his life-time, ſought to have cheated this maid of ſix or ſeven hundred pounds, and had begun ſuit againſt her, and I was retained for the maid againſt the ſaid *Gorge*; and now when he heard that the Lords did make out for any one that would come in againſt me, to do them a friendſhip, then comes in this *Satten-George* and tels them that I had hindered him of 6 or 700 which he could have recovered from the ſaid Maid, had not I been her Lawyer, pretending that the Certificate made by one *Jacus Mais* of *Rotterdam* was falſe, and that he gave it by the perſwaſion of me; ſo this *Satten-George* was ſent by them to *Rotterdam* to get this *Jacus Mais* to renounce that which he had formerly written, and to ſay that that which he had writ before was by my induction. So then this being done, I was fetcht out again before them, then there they ſhewed me his act of revoking what he had before written in witneſſe of the truth, but not upon oath, neither was that, nor yet this his renunciation. To which I gave for anſwer, That I did ſerve in the ſuit for the Maid againſt *Satten George*, and that upon a time I was going to *Rotterdam*, the Maid and her Overſeers did deſire me to call at *Iacus Mais* for his writing of what he in the buſines knew, like as he had told the Maid and many other before, which writing he gave unto me,

and

and I brought with me, but not upon oath, for I esteemed it needlesse to have it a trial, and therefore would not be at the charge to put him to his oath, which he was willing to do: But for the truth of that which he wrote, 'tis known to twenty and twenty in *Amsterdam*, besides men that have heard before the same words out of *Satten-George's* and *Iacus Mais's* own mouths, that there are written in the said Certificate that he delivered me, so that this plea could do them no good: so the Theef-leaders were commanded to bring me again to my dungeon.

And about five dayes after I was brought before them again, and in that time (they being in a great losse what to do with me, and how to answer the taking away my goods) they resolved to pretend a false action against me, and thereupon to whip me and banish me: so I was brought before them again, and they told me that I must now be whipt and banished the Town, because they had forbid me the Town when they took away my goods, which was two years and a half before, and therefore I had committed contempt in not departing the Town: so the Theef-leaders pulling me to the whipping-post, I spake out with a loud voice, that it was false, and bade them search their Book or Rolls, and they should not find any thing against me; and that they had nothing to do with punishing me for any voluntary thing I did agitate in behalf of our Commonwealth of *England* (of whom *I* was a free native member) without first communicating it unto our Parliament who represent us, to see whether they would own it in whole or part. Whereupon at that time they commanded me to be brought back into my dungeon again, and was not whipt.

Within two or three dayes after, Mr. *Francis Prince* an English Merchant in *Amsterdam*, receiving a Letter from one Mr. *Adam Jennings* a Merchant in *London*, who had been with me to visit me in prison, and had knowledge of my business, did write, that he Mr. *Prince* should tell me, that by the next Post should come a Letter from the *Councel of State* unto our *Agent* in the *Hague*, for him to come to *Amsterdam* to examine the business between the Lords and me. Mr. *Prince* reporting this upon the Exchange, they came to hear of it, and thinking to prevent Mr. *Stricklands* coming (as they did) came presently to the prison and call'd me out before them, and pronounced these following words: *We the Lords of the Bench do forbid you this City, and that for the Space of four years, that you shall not come within an houres going of it.* All without ever a word why or wherefore they forbad me the town. So *I* was brought and turn'd out of the gates by a Theef-leader, as they do theeves after they have received their punishment; that they might make me an example for the whole town, that none might dare open their mouths in behalf of our Parliaments cause: for so the President *Beningcock* often told me, they had and would make me an example for the whole town. But thus God *confounds the wisdome of the wise.* For none of our Nation in the world knows them, and their proceedings, and their lawes better then I do, by reason I have been there above twenty yeares a Practitioner in their Laws, and shall discover what a moath they have alwayes been unto *England*, (in place where they ought to have been grateful unto us) and will alwayes be, if we let them alone.

Thus I being turned out of Town, I wrote to them desiring to know wherefore they did turn me out of Town, seeing they had proved nothing against me, much nor little, (not the least tittle that they dare avouch, till the *Scots* King be master over us, from whose power I hope God will deliver us) And that they would send me an Act (out of their Roll) of my sentence, but I could get none.

Then I addrest my self unto our Agent in the *Hague*, Master *walter Strickland*, and he wrote unto them to know the reason why they turned me out of the town, and had before taken away my goods, and denied me the benefit of the law to recover my Estate out of other mens hands as they are owing unto me; but they would not answer him neither one way nor other, for they thought and doe still to delay untill they see the *Scots* King in his fathers stead above the Parliament, and the Parliament wholly overthrown, which they would have to be, and then they would shew him at large how zealous they had been for him in prosecuting of me.

1. And now my Lord Ambassador, this is to require restitution of my Estate of 26000 gilders which they took from me, and wherein they denied to do me right when in *Amsterdam*; therefore I do demand payment with the interest and charges from the time that you denied me right, and from the times you took away my goods aforesaid.

2. I demand satisfaction for those men, whose writings were taken away from me by the aforesaid Lords of *Amsterdam*, when they plundered me; but most especially satisfaction in the case of *walter Batman*, and *Daniell Winch* in their cause against *Nicasius Frappe*, who have been kept from their right by the corruption of your Courts about 20. years from 52000. gilders, which rightly belongs unto them; and by the assistance of Master *Michael Paw*, one of the Judges of the Bench, and *Carolus Looter*, and *John Webstar*, and these by the invention of the said *Michaell Paw*, would have defrauded the said *Batman* and *Winch* the summe of 1500. gilders more in the said cause, providing that if they did furnish that summe, that this *Frappe* should deliver over thither 52000. gilders in goods unto us; but we seeing and finding the falseness of the said *Paw* in many things before, whereby we did see that he intended to cheat us of 1500. gilders, or else he thought that the said *Batman* and *Winch* knew no way how to procure 1500. gilders, and so must be forst to let *Frappe* alone with all their goods 52000. gilders worth; so that our Advocate *Rack* said, sure it was a plot to cheat us 1500. gilders more.

Then we consulted what to do, seeing that no reason would serve this *Pawes* turn, we thought best to keep a purse of *Swedes* money, and a purse of *Hollanders*, and put it in a bag each apart, and the greater part *Swedes* by farre, and to trie whether *Paw* would give away the *Hollands* unto *Frappe* or not, before he had delivered or shewed us where our aforesaid 52000. gilders of goods was; which thing according to our imagination *Paw* did, and all the *Hollands* money he gave unto the said *Frappe*, and bid us go to law before the *Hoogen Radt* in the *Hague* for our goods if we would, and so we were cheated of this *Hollands* money more, and our aforesaid goods also to this day. Then this *Paw* did sollicite in the *Hague* in this *Frappes* behalf, and many hard words and writings passed between him and I; but he was so impudent and so powerfull,

and

and his own brother sitting Judge in the *Hoogen Radt*, we were served with them as formerly we were at first at the *Hoft of Holland*, by Judge *Fasin* and Judge *wingerd*; the one is dead, and the other put from the Bench for briberie, which he most grosly had long followed, before whom we could never get any right. Now this *Carolus Looten* and *Webstar* doe and have done whatsoever they can all along this 16. yeares together to keep me from a definitive sentence against *Frappe*, because there was 2512. gilders, which should have remained in the hands of them, untill the business was determined betwixt *Frappe* and us; but it seems that *Paw* was too subtle for them as well as us, and he goes to the man which had made sale of some goods of ours, and takes *Frappe* with him and takes away the money, so that I suppose *Looten* nor *webstar* doth justly know how they shared it; but it is well to imagine.

Now this *Paw* is come to decease this life, and his son is come to the Bench and is my bitter enemy, and had a great hand as well as *Beningcock* in affronting me; the reason, because he knowes that by right I ought to have this 2512 gilders in the first place, besides much more goods which *Frappe* sayes he delivered into their three hands; therefore they do all that ever they can against me: and thus have these two Merchants *Walter Batman* and *Daniel Winch* been kept from their Estates by wicked practices of the great men which ought to have done them Justice almost 20. yeares agoe, and I my self have been at infinite charges and pains to follow it: and this *Frappe* hath all this time dominered in Plush and Velvet every day; and he had not a farthing in the world but what was *Batmans* and *Winches*, and they themselves were with their Families brought by him to povertie, and many more of their creditors brought to misery, and perished in prison for want.

So that if you will not give us satisfaction in these two points especially, then we shall be forced to get letters of Reprisall or Mart, from our Parliament, (whereby we may right our selves) which can not be denied us by them; for they are to see our wrongs righted, for to whom we yield subjection, from them must we receive protection, else shall our enemies be made rich by us, as you are enriched by us, but now especially within the time since our warres began: For you like *Edomites* have behaved your selves towards us, in the crying out in all your Houses, Towns and Cities, Down with us, down with us; and strengthening the power of our enemy, and every way dealing more wickedly by us, then those *Edomites* did by the *Israelites* in the time of their persecution, as the Prophet *Obadiah* the whole Chapter at large declares, and *Psalme* 137.7. I reason thus, The injuries that you did us then, were worse and greater then any Nation did us, nay greater then all the wrongs that were done us by all the Nations in the world: Then consider the little reason that you had above any in the world to be our enemies, seeing that we in the time of your persecution by your King, were your onely best assistance, with the losse of many thousand of our lives and moneyes, all was for you with all willingnesse: how many thousands of Gentlemen of great estate have gone over to you, and assisted you in the wars, and have had their rents remitted them over every half yeare, and they have spent it, when as they might have lived at home and spent their monies in house-keeping to the profit of both poore and rich? and now you so ungratefully to reward us, by suffering no man to

« live in your town, that will dare to say that our *Charles Stuart* was lawfully put
« to death, who walked in a worse way then the King of *Spain* did towards them.
« And then to kill our Ambassador Dr. *Doriſlaus*, and to cover it with a Mandate
« of diſſimulation. And alſo by making your Havens a free place for all thieves
which took our goods at sea, to bring into your Havens and sell them, without
ever acknowledgment of Admiralty, whether good priſe or not: ſo that your
Country was like *Tunis* or *Argier*, free for all Rogues which could bring our
ſhips or goods which they had ſtole from us, might freely do it. And you de-
nied us to have any benefit of your own lawes, for recovery of our ſhips and
goods; which never before was denied to any Nation with whom you were in
alliance, as we were and are as yet with you: Nay, when our own Servants
ran away with nine ſhips together, and knew no place to bring them into but
to you, they brought them to *Goree*, and there you protected them with a great
Fleet of your ſhips of war, conſiſting of 14 or 15 great ſhips; ſo that when we
ſent my Lord of *Warwick* for them, we were denied by you and your Admiral
which guarded them; and at that time what a number of Merchants ſhips
were taken and brought in to *Goree* and other of your Havens, the value of
which amounted to many tuns of gold, and no right you would grant us: this
was an unthankful requital to us, for that we had before ſuffered you to come
into the *Downs* and take the *Spaniſh* Fleet, which we knew not whether they
meant any harm againſt us, but we knew that the *Spaniard* and you were
enemies, and we friends, yet nevertheleſſe ſuffered you to come and take
them.

Another ungrateful requital to us, was when one of *Charls Stuarts* Captains,
namely *Brownbuſhel*, had taken like a theef, in the river by *Ankeuſon*, one of
your Merchants ſhips richly laden worth above a tun of gold, and in the ſea
was met with many dayes after by one of our ſhips, and taken, and was good
priſe to us according to the Sea-law; and this Captain *Brownbuſhel* afterward
taken himſelf and brought into *Amſterdam*, and there impriſoned for this ex-
ploit for a Sea-Pirate (as he was) and then your States of *Holland* and Magi-
ſtrates of *Amſterdam* petitioned unto our Parliament to have the aforeſaid
ſhip and goods again, although they were good priſe by the rule of the Sea-
law unto us: which ſaid Petition was granted, and the ſhip and goods again,
only that they ſhould not let the ſaid *Brownbuſhel* go out of priſon without their
further conſent; yea he lay under arreſt by the owners of the ſaid ſhip and
goods, for ſatisfaction to them for the charges and damage that they had re-
ceived by him through his taking of the ſaid ſhip, for which they demanded
600l. The cauſe was pleaded by Advocates before the Bench, and the Bench
never regarded the concluſion of the demand of the plaintiff, nor yet of the de-
fendant, but abſolved him from the apprehenſion and ſet him free out of priſon,
that he might go a theeving for to do more miſchief again, like as he did.
Now I demand whether ever they could ſhew more unparallel'd ungratefulnes
then in this point?

Shortly following this, one of your Men of war at ſea took a Pirate (who
was a *Hollander*) with two Priſes that he had taken from us, being two great
Hull-ſhips richly laden with Cloth and Kerſies; which ſaid Pirate with theſe
two *Hull*-ſhips your man of war brought to *Amſterdam*, and put the Pirate in

prison for a little time, and then let him out again: then our Merchants of *Hull* to whom the goods and two ships did belong, did seek unto you for to have their ships and goods restored; and thus solliciting they followed you two years or thereabout, for to have sentence against this Pirat, which cost them many thousands, and in the interim Moths and Rats had miserably spoiled their goods; and then your States and Judges told them plainly, that they would not give any sentence, but if they would they might agree with the said Pirate, which they were constrained to do, and give him 8000*l.* as I best remember, so that the remedy was worse then the disease. This was a bad requital for that which our Parliament had done for them, in delivering back the ship and goods which *Brownbushel* took from you in like kind, upon the earnest perswasion and sollicitation of your States and Magistrates of *Amsterdam*, promising that you would do the like to them when it should happen to us, which now hapned just the like, which recompence you have denied us: let every man judge whether you have not done in this like as in all other things, dealt most ungratefully by us, like the perfidious *Scots*.

Again, how strongly have you strengthened the hands of our mortal enemies with monies and ammunition, and strong convoyes to bring it to *Charles Stuart*, to our great damage and bloodshed, at one time above the rest with 7 men of war to bring it with the Queen also: and so likewise you have assisted the son young *Charles* with many tuns of gold at a time (under the colour of lending it the Prince of *Orange*) whereby he was able to go to the Isle of *Silly*, and set out ships to rob and take our rich Merchant-ships; so that he did domineer there a long time, taking our ships and giving commissions to all sorts of Rogues for to take our ships, as they did and do still; and sometime in their iniquity they dealt equally, for they took some of your ships of good worth and made plunder of them, so that the old proverb is in part fallen upon you, *viz. Harm watch, harm catch.*

But what shall I say? the time will not avail me to speak of those infinite injuries and losses that we have received, which I my self have seen done unto us by them: Besides their tyrannical torturing and murder of our people in *East-Indies* at *Amboyna*, where they by violence usurped our place of trade, tortured our Factors and Merchants there to force them to confesse a lie, that they might have some colour for their monstrous covetous villany, and so they possesse our place of trade to this day. Also what abundance of our Merchants ships have they taken richly laden, towards the south and also the west, and brought them into their Ports in *Brasil* and other places, and have set our men ashore in desolate places, that they might never come home to make report; and you have made our ships and goods prise, under pretence that they were renegadoes, and no redresse we could have; and then our Merchants have spent many thousands in suit to you for redresse, but never could obtain it: so that the remedy hath proved as bad, and sometimes worse then the disease; for I have known many undo themselves by following of your Lords in *Holland*, and could get no right of them.

Nay, what a moth hath your *Holland* been to our Nation? How many thousand of our English Merchants have been undone by trading into *Holland*, by reason that they must stand unto what men please to do with them, when they

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are in trading with, or any thing lying in their hands. If he be a Burgher, that is, a Housekeeper and Freeman of the Town, a man can never arrest him, whereby he might have good Bail, & presently have sentence: but with you, if a man will go to law, the remedy is commonly worse then the disease, as I could instance in a world of our Nation in my time, that have been devoured by your people and your laws, so that you are become rich by us, and many thousands of us undone by you; but only the Cloth-Staple-Company at *Rotterdam* keeps up with you, but the reason is because they have a Patent of Priviledges from your States that you will grant to none else, and they are bred up amongst you and know your tricks, and yet they will not trust one of you with a peece of Cloth for 14 dayes, but they will take a Bill or Bond of him, or else they might run in law long enough; and yet sometimes they also are forced to call them to law, and sometimes long delayed; but then the Company hath a priviledge, that if a man play Bankrupt, and give over all to his creditors, that none touch his person, yet if any of the said Company be a Creditor, he may touch his person and lay him in prison till he be fully satisfied, only he must pay for his dyet 12d a day for as long as he please to keep him there.

I have heard, that not long since you have been so proudly set against us, that it came to most Voices, *whether you should make wars against us, or no?* But it seems there were some wiser then some among you, that it went not forward. But let me tell you, that it were good, and best war for profit for our Seamen to have wars against you: for all your maintenance comes to you by sea, and passeth backward and forward all before our doors, I mean our Havens, which you cannot escape to make a Voyage through the Chanel, the way that all your riches must come, but either going or coming you will be forced into one or other of our Havens by contrary winds: But if you could misse our Havens, how will you escape our Men of war that lie upon all our Coasts?

But it may be you will say, that you will go with your Men of war also. I, but that will devoure you at last, and that in short time: for every Fleet or ship must have five or six Men of war with them, that goes through the Chanel by *Dover*, for our Men of war lie in the *Downs* continually more or lesse, so that it would be hot passing the Channel for you: how long would you be able to maintain this charge? And if you could trade free at sea, what would you do for vent for what you bring from West and East? doth not our 3 Nations *England Ireland* and *Scotland* vent the greatest part? it were happy for us that we had wars with you; then our Merchants should not be at any more losse by trading amongst , and it would be profitable for our men of war at sea.

If you had wars with us, what would become of your Trade upon our Coasts for Fishing, whereby your common sort of people have their food, and you drive a great trade beside into other Countries with the Pickel'd-Herrings? Nay, if you had wars with us, in a short time what would become of above the one half of your ordinary Merchants and Factors, and Brokers and shopkeepers, which have their living by the English trade consisting of our three Nations; which when you have wars with us, you shall find by your case, that at yeares end you shall not have received half the monies for Custome as now you do.

I know that the greateſt profit would be for us and our Sea-men, to fetch others Commodities our ſelves, and carry ours to them, as you do, and ſo take the whole profit to our ſelves in the vending them where you do, and alſo in the returns from thence; for you do but run *between the Bark and the Tree*, and all with our goods like Haglers and Huckſters; ſo that *You ſheare the Sheep, and we the Hogs*. But I hope we ſhall be wiſer for time to come, than to maintain you for the moſt part to go every day in Silk and Velvet; Cloth is almoſt become an execrable thing; ſcarce a man is to be ſeen upon your *Amſterdam-Exchange* that hath a Cloth-ſuit upon his back, except it be upon ſtrangers backs; and we may put off our Hats to this which ſprings from us, but cannot poſſeſſe it; it is not a little grief and vexation to ſee them domineer before our faces daily with our goods, and we muſt ſtand and ſee it, and can have no law to help us. But if all our Merchants and Traders were of my mind, they would turn their trade another way; which doing, I know that the greateſt part of the trade that is drove in your country, is drove by you with us, and us with you, by means of our commodities which you trade withal to other Nations backwards and forwards, and when you ſhall come to miſſe the half of your trade, your people ſhall firſt murmur and pine and come to poverty, and then ſhall come to ſee how they have been deluded by you of the *Arminian* faction, which are now crept into the ſeat of juſtice and government; and the common people, with thoſe of the well-affected Magiſtrates and Rulers, ſhall ſtand up and take courſe with theſe proud Arminian ſpirits, as we have done with *Strafford* and *Canterbury*, *Montroſe* and the reſt, beſides their Captain great *Charles*, and beſides all the Judges of the whole Land, whom we turned moſt part out of their places, and fined them alſo, for neglect of doing right and juſtice in all things as they ought to have done.

I will not be ſo large in this as I might; for it's not I that can keep you from attempting evil, until it fall upon your own heads. The Prophet *Micah* gave *Ahab* warning enough that he ſhould not go up to *Ramoth-Gilead* to warre againſt the *Aſſyrians*, that if he did he ſhould fall: ſo much leſſe will you believe me, who do not give my ſelf out for a Prophet nor the ſonne of a Prophet; yet I muſt not bely the Spirit, for God teaches now by the ſame Spirit as he did in old time, although neither then nor now to all in one manner nor meaſure, as the Scriptures at large declare, 1 *Cor.* 12. 4, 5, &c.

But now we muſt make diſtinction between Spirits conſiſting of good and bad; there was a Spirit that taught the Prophet *Micah* and the reſt of the Prophets and Apoſtles and Evangeliſts, which was the infallible Spirit of truth.

Now the word *Prophet* conſiſts of two ſorts of qualifications in men, as the Scriptures hold out unto us, that is of immediate and of mediate. And firſt of the immediate Prophets, they were moſt brought up in ordinary callings, as ſhepheards, Cowheards, &c. which were men without humane School-learning, but were immediately ſent by the Spirit of God, who ſent them to the Iſraelites to preach unto them the meſſage of the Lord, and eſpecially in ſetting out the beauty of Jeſus Chriſt, who was before typified unto them by the Lamb ſlain, and many other ordinances in ſacrifices, which was indeed the Jewes goſpel,

if they had rightly understood them, which few among them nor their learned Rabbies did; therefore the Lord did out of love to his send his messengers the Prophets, rising up early and lying down late, to forewarn them of evil, and inlighten them in the way of salvation by Christ; and all whatsoever they declared unto the Church of the Jews, was infallible truths of God.

Now the second sort of Prophets are those mediate, they which have studied in Schools and do exercises among the congregation of the godly, who are congregated together to worship the Lord in spirit and truth; and indeed every man ought to be a Prophet, you and every master of a family ought to perform also the duty of King, Priest and Prophet; a King in well ruling, a Priest in offering up prayer and praises and thanksgiving unto God, a Profit by teaching exhorting and instructing his family. And this work of prophesie by instructing the brethren of what estate soever, every man ought at all times readily to administer, as the person or persons, time and place shall give opportunity, whether it be in the publike congregation, or to instruct and set forth the glory and loving-kindnesse of God unto poor weak and distressed souls.

Now for the men which come by prophesie by humane learning and study in the Universities, which they do endeavour for eloquence to teach the word, this is also good, if with an honest heart they do use it: But all these we are not to believe to be sent by a like infallible spirit, as may well appear by many reasons: for when these mediate men speak (learned or unlearned) they are referred to the judgment of the hearers the Prophets, as at large you may read in 1 *Cor.*14.29. and yet you may see that the Apostle exhorteth every man to endeavour to teach in the Congregation, as *ver.* 1. & 39. and the Apostle confirms this to be the will of God, that men should do so, as *ver.*37.

This then being so, that none of mediate humane learning can affirm truly that whatsoever they preach is infallible; why then do you suffer those two railing *Shimei's* at *Amsterdam*, which you do maintain to preach in the English Church, and affirm that they have power as being Gods Prophets sent by him, to curse the Government and Governours of this our Nation (your friends) and to this end you pay them a matter of 300l. a year; and yet you get no more by it, nor they can do you no more good, then *Balaam* could do his master *Balak*, although their pulpits were as high as the hills *Balaam* went up to find opportunity to curse Israel; and yet you will not put these *Balaams* out of service. If curling and damning and drinking would have done it, it had been done long ago by that wicked crew of Cavaliers, you needed not to have given wages to these *Balaams* to do it: *For the righteousnesse of God is not subject unto the wrath of man*, which if it had, we had been long ago consumed: but the Lord hath made a promise to us in *Abraham*, that he would *blesse those that blesse us, and curse those that curse us*; in the fulfilling of which promise the Lord hath gloriously appeared unto us.

I had thought to have enlarged and wrote another sheet, but other occasions call me away: But if you do not give me satisfaction in these two Demands, then I shall write the rest, and let you have it to your little comfort. Your old games which you were wont to play will do you no good now, which was bribeing of men in great place, and flattery and fawning, and fair promises without

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performances: but now *Cort-richt*, (you know well what that is to say) or else we shall take another way with you. But now I must conclude in haste.

If any man amongst you take offence at any thing that I have written, himself being not guilty, neither had any hand in this busines, let him be content and quiet, for I mean not him. And for those that are guilty, if they be offended, let them bear with me, and consider how many yeares together they have unjustly made me to suffer, and do still by them, the like was never heard of any Nation with whom we were in alliance, as they have dealt by me, who have been so good a Benefactor unto their Land as I have been. I was the first bringer in the printing of the English Bible in *Amsterdam*, neer 20 years ago, and after I had printed many impressions, many more took it in hand; so that by this means abundance of their poorer sort of people were set on work, and and many such of them as were my servants, are by my means become rich men amongst you, all which hath been a great profit unto your Country; by which means I brought the price of Bibles in *England* from 4^{s}. 6^{d}. in quires, to 1^{s}. 6^{d}. which alwayes before had been kept at 4^{s}. 6^{d}. besides abundance of little and great Books of divine nature which I printed, and other men also, because here the Booksellers held them at three times the price that they were worth; yea, I have ordinarily sold for 6^{d}. that which the Booksellers made the people pay 2^{s}. &c. Secondly, I was there a Practitioner in the Civil Law, my advice and counsel was free to all that were of mean estate, I would neither take mony nor mony-worth; I was a friend to those of our three Nations that could not understand the speech; my purse was as ready to help those men that had busines in law, my mony and my labour and all went readily to those that else must have lost all for want of ability to follow suit. But I must rest at this time, referring you to what I have written.

London, Septemb. 26.
1650.

Tho: Craford.

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